

Northwestway Park Master Plan & 56th St. Greenway



An Amendment to the 1983 Master Plan



Northwestway Park Master Plan & 56th St. Greenway December ~ 2000

An Amendment to the 1983 Master Plan

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Gove Associates, Inc. &
Claire Bennett Associates

Indy Parks & Recreation Vision

Indy Parks & Recreation shall provide safe, well-maintained parkland and natural areas.

These lands shall provide quality recreation and environmental services that are models of stewardship and community involvement for all Marion County citizens.

In support of strong neighborhoods, Indy Parks & Recreation shall actively partner with recreation environmental and social service providers; educational institutions and other government agencies in order to provide vital living links to our, and through our, parks to neighborhoods, schools and businesses.

We will enhance a thriving economy by utilizing our natural, cultural, financial and human resources in order to inspire a healthy lifestyle while celebrating cultural diversity and instilling a respect for the natural environment in which we live, work and play.

Indy Parks & Recreation Mission

Indy Parks & Recreation shall provide clear leadership and well-defined direction for enhancing the quality of life for Indianapolis and Marion County residents by providing park and recreation resources and services that:

Provide and/or facilitate quality recreation and leisure opportunities.

Encourage and support natural and cultural resource stewardship and environmental education.

Include safe, clean, well-maintained park facilities for the community's use and enjoyment.

Promote and facilitate mutually beneficial county-wide partnerships.



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Northwestway Park Prairie

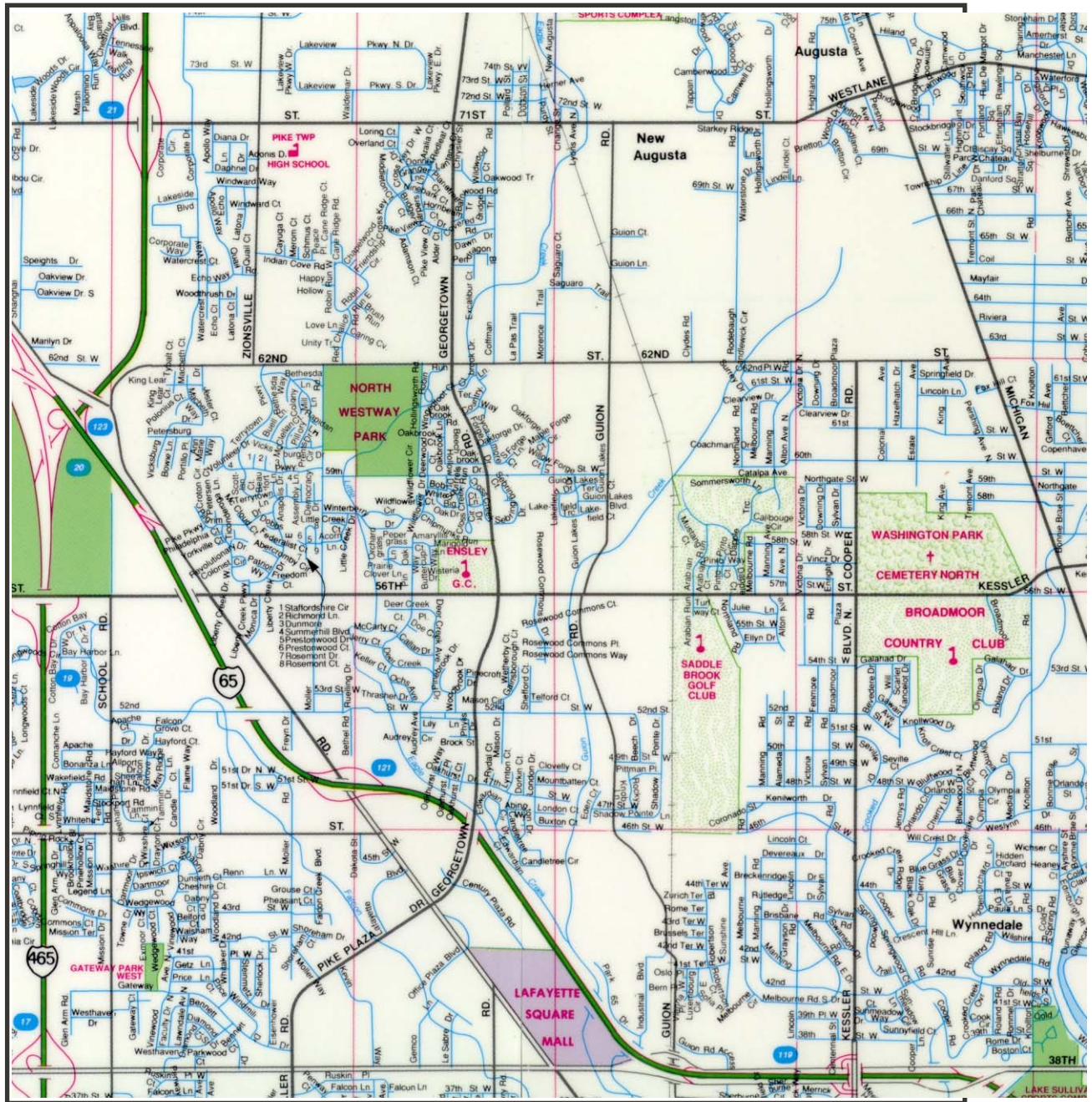


Executive Summary

Northwestway Park is a community park located in Pike Township. The site was purchased by the City of Indianapolis in 1957 in anticipation of future growth in the northwestern portion of the county. Development of park facilities at Northwestway began in the 70s under the direction of Indy Parks and Recreation. The first masterplan for the park was prepared in 1983 and this plan is the first amendment of the original park masterplan.

The consulting team of Gove Associates and Claire Bennett Associates was hired to coordinate the planning process and prepare the update. The consultants worked with Indy Parks & Recreation staff, the general public, and various city agencies and organizations to develop the plan. The update offers recommendations for park maintenance, facilities and improvements during the next 10 years. An action plan outlines 13 major projects, construction budgets for each, and the recommended sequence of implementation.

A trail study was also undertaken as part of the planning effort. The existing trail system within the park was evaluated and opportunities for expansion were identified. Potential trail links to other sites and transportation corridors were also developed to meet the goals of Indy Parks & Recreation connectivity plan for Pike Township. The final plan includes a suggested route and a rough construction cost for the proposed trail expansion and 56th Street connection.



Park Boundary Map



Introduction

The goal of this plan is to provide a guide for future growth and development of Northwestway Park. The plan responds to user needs, Indy Parks & Recreation management criteria, and City of Indianapolis standards.

Indy Parks & Recreation worked with the consulting team to develop plan recommendations based on demographic research, physical characteristics of the park, public input, and Indy Parks & Recreation planning policies. Planning work included a detailed recreation facilities inventory, user group research, site planning and a series of facilitated public planning sessions.

A detailed trail study was also completed as part of the plan. Options for expanding the park's existing trail system and linking it with other pedestrian corridors were developed for this portion of the plan.

Work on the update began with a review of existing development policies and standards for Indy Parks & Recreation, Pike Township, Marion County. This plan responds specifically to the development policies for Pike Township as a rapidly developing suburban area.

Development Standards for Developing Suburban Areas The Comprehensive Plan for Marion County, Indiana, 1991

- 1 Preserve open space wherever extensive and/or intensive development is proposed in order to maintain the area's unique and natural beauty, protect environmental features, and provide relief from the potentially monotonous effects of continuous urban development.
- 2 Encourage careful site design and planning, including adequate landscaping, sign reductions, transitional yards, and other buffering measures for nonresidential developments in order to minimize any adverse visual impacts on the surrounding area.
- 3 Plan the location of intense land uses with careful consideration of public infrastructure capacities and proposed improvements so that adequate service will be feasible.
- 4 Encourage commercial and industrial development to integrate functionally and aesthetically with similar developments already existing on, or proposed for, adjacent properties.
- 5 Require new development to provide (or make other commitments for the provision of) expanded public facilities required to serve this new growth.
- 6 In general, do not permit urban development on environmentally sensitive lands, unless such development clearly provides for the adequate preservation and protection of any affected natural, man-made, or historically significant features.
- 7 Encourage provision of new or increased social service uses in response to increased demand.





Early Hoosier Homestead

History

One hundred and twenty acres of Northwestway Park was originally part of a 200 acre parcel purchased by George Hollingsworth in 1826. The Hollingsworths farmed the property and raised livestock, living in a simple log home on their land. Mr. Hollingsworth was regarded as one of the leading agriculturists of Pike Township, operating a highly successful farming business for many years. The family farm remained active until 1941 when it was sold to a buyer outside of the family. The City of Indianapolis understood the pressures suburban development would place on open space in the Township and purchased the site for use as a park in 1957.

This purchase began a development trend that would last throughout the 1960's. In the 1970's the Department of Parks and Recreation became part of the City's UNIGOV expansion of Indianapolis service boundaries. Northwestway became the responsibility of Indy Parks & Recreation. New programs were promoted during this time, leading to the development of some of Northwestway's amenities. A general lack of park usage, inadequate maintenance, and vandalism became serious problems however, and Northwestway along with several other parks, suffered deterioration.

In the 1980's, a new administration phased out smaller central parks in favor of large natural-settings such as Northwestway. A Master Plan for the park was completed in 1983. Recommended improvements, including the construction of ball fields, were constructed and the popularity of the park increased. In 1999 a new aquatic center was constructed bringing hundreds of new users to Northwestway to enjoy the wide range of well maintained facilities.

Historical information compiled in part from the Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan: Pathways To The Future, April, 1999, and from Farm Life Experience, A Model Farm Proposal.



Demographics

The service area for Northwestway Park was predominately rural until the 1960's. The growing suburbs, the construction of the 38th Street bridge over White River, the construction of the Interstate system, and the development of Eagle Creek Reservoir, were all growth incentives for Pike Township. The Northwestway site was originally purchased to meet the recreation needs of the projected future population of the area. Pike Township became one of the fastest growing areas in the county exceeding the anticipated growth projections. Although only one-third of land in the Township was developed in 1973, by 1985 almost half of the land was developed.

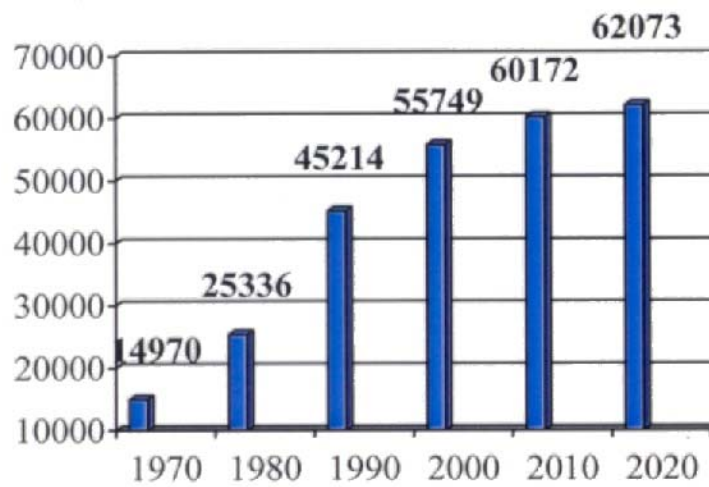
By the year 2020, projections suggest that over 62,000 people will reside in the Northwestway service area. Fifty-nine percent of service area residents fall into the 20-49 year old age range. Children comprise about 24% of the local population, with a high percentage of toddlers, and pre-teens. Residents 50 years of age and above round out the remaining 17% of the service area population. The median income for residents of the service area ranges between \$30,000 and \$43,000 per year.

The service area population has a higher than average number of people with mobility impairments. This indicates a need to carefully assess mobility issues at the park and throughout the Township.

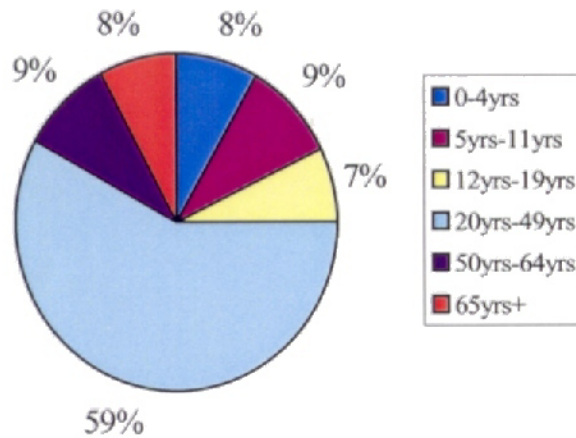
The population density of the area is in the medium range when compared to all of Marion County. Over 40% of the housing units in the Township are multi-family. Typically, multi-family housing complexes provide some private recreation facilities such as exercise equipment or outdoor pools for their residents. These recreation facilities are not designed to meet the overall recreation needs of the entire service area. The ability of these facilities to help meet the recreation needs of the area however should be considered when planning for development at Northwestway.

The demographic information presented here is compiled from several sources. The population projections were written in part by planners who based projections upon the 1990 Census data, and from data and text provided in The Comprehensive Plan for Marion County, Indiana, 1999. Additional text was reinterpreted and taken from the Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan: Pathways To The Future, published by Indy Parks, April, 1999.





Projected Population Growth of Northwestway Service Area



Pike Township Age Distribution by Percent of Estimated 2000 Population

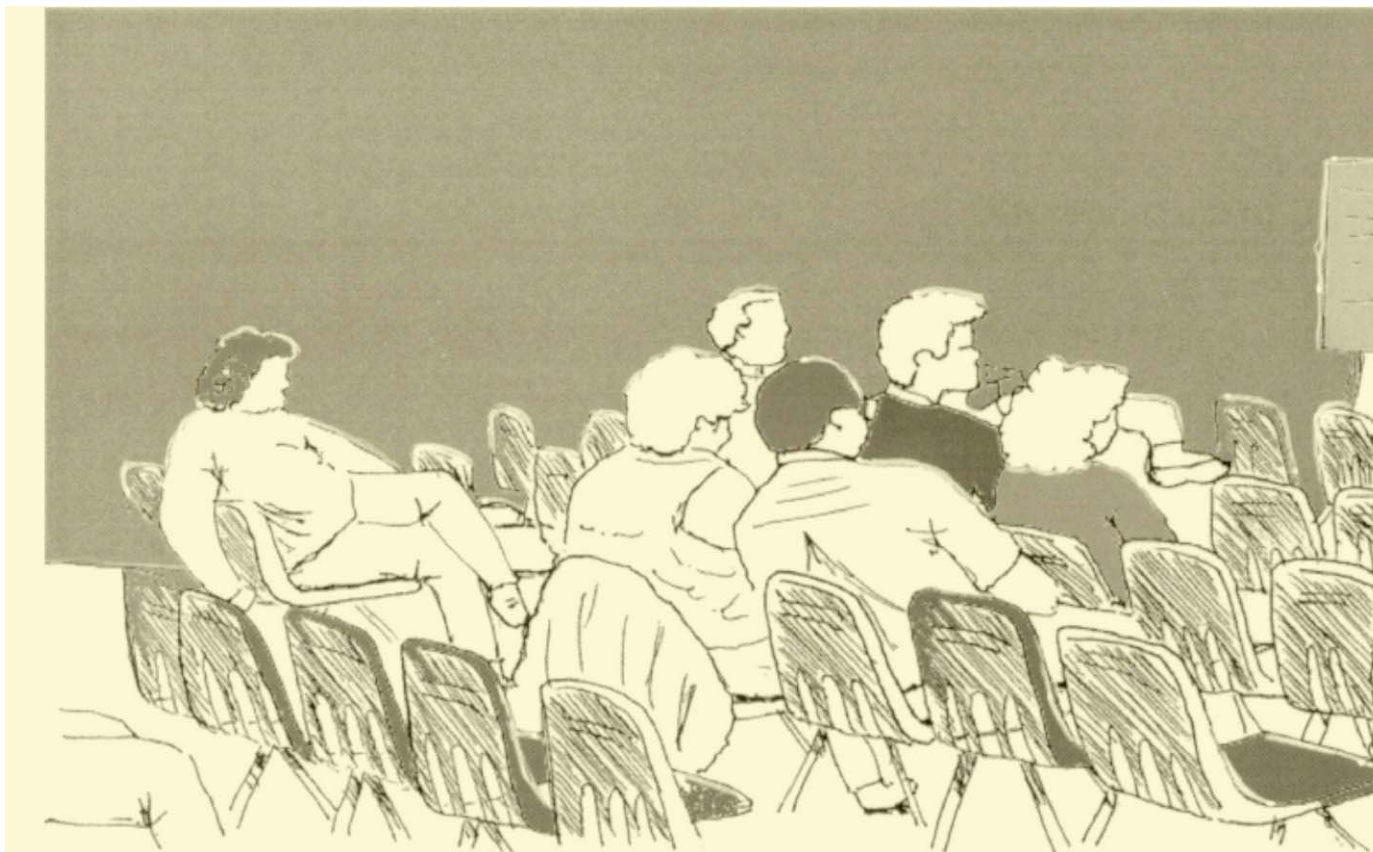
The Planning Process

All masterplanning projects begin by asking three basic questions: Where are we, where do we want to be, and how do we get there? The Northwestway masterplan update answers all of these questions.

The planning process began with an inventory of existing site conditions and interviews with park staff to determine opportunities and constraints. Once the base information and mapping was complete, project planners initiated a series of public meetings and a survey to identify recreation needs, user issues, and prioritize park improvements. Parallel to this effort, the consultant team conducted research on local demographics and history to provide context for development of the plan. Additional field work was also undertaken to assess the condition of the existing recreation facilities and identify appropriate locations for new or expanded facilities. The planning process was completed with the development of a prioritized action plan listing 13 recommended actions to be implemented over a ten year period. A conceptual site plan was created to illustrate the location of the proposed improvements and complete the plan.

Public Participation

Collecting public input is a critical component of all park master planning. Understanding the needs and interests of the local community is most important if recommendations that will benefit the park user base are to be developed. The public participation component of this project

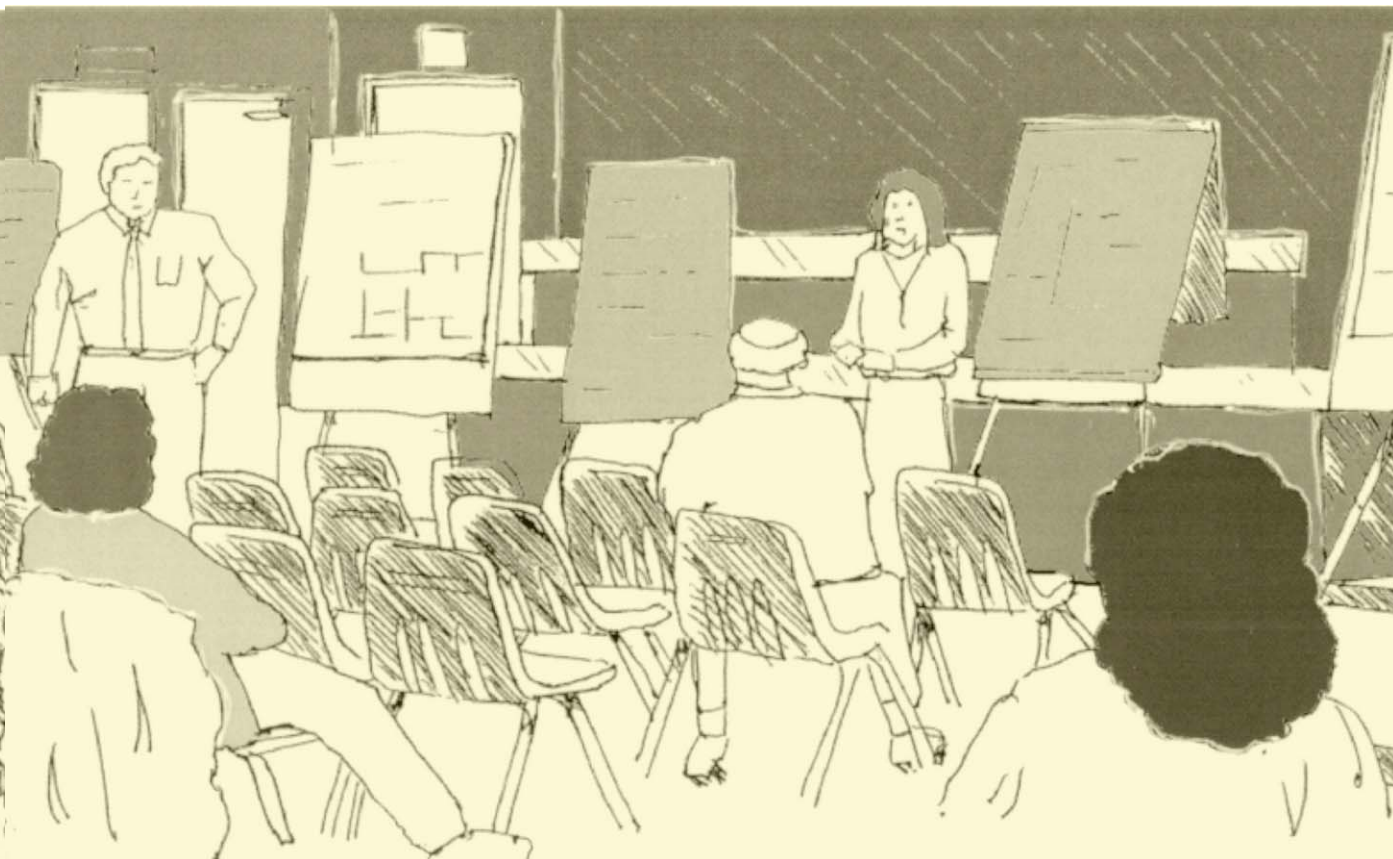


included a series of three facilitated meetings and a mail survey. The meetings were conducted at the Pike Township Government Center and were facilitated by the consultant team. Indy Parks & Recreation staff worked with the consultants to develop a follow-up mail survey to gain greater input on the project. Approximately 500 surveys were mailed throughout the township and distributed to children at local schools as a take-home announcement.

A series of three public meetings were used to gain input from local residents and organizations on their preferences for park improvements. Although the meetings were lightly attended, a good cross section of the service area population was represented and a great deal of input was provided. The meetings were used to familiarize the public with the park in its current condition, identify a series of optional improvements and identify a prioritized implementation plan for construction of the proposed improvements.

All of the meetings were conducted in two phases, the first phase addressing park planning issues, with the second phase addressing the expansion of the existing trail system. Developing links to the Eagle Creek Little League Fields and a connector leading to 56th Street was the focus of the trail portion of the meetings. A two-phased meeting format, allowed planners to clearly address and define issues related to the park facilities and those targeted toward trail expansion.

A brief summary of each meeting provides an overview of the public input received. Complete minutes of each meeting are included in the Appendix.



Meeting #1 - April 6, 2000

The planning team introduced themselves and the project to the public. The meeting began with a review of the planning process and an overview of the masterplan update and trail study.

Planners began the meeting by asking attendees to discuss three issues, positive park attributes, park issues, and proposed new projects. Information from the ensuing discussion was summarized and categorized and meeting participants were asked to select the projects they considered most important. Trail improvements were listed as one of the top priorities.

The trail study was introduced with site inventory information on the existing trail system. This was followed by a presentation of potential expansion opportunities. Meeting attendees were reminded of the Pike Connectivity Plan, a plan for linking pedestrian and bicycle corridors throughout the township. Developing a connection between the park and 56th Street was one of the goals of the trail study. Objectives included improving the trail network within the park and creating links to adjacent residential areas and the nearby Eagle Creek Little League Fields.

Meeting #2 - June 20, 2000

The purpose of the second public meeting was to review the preliminary concept plan for the site and review the trail study information. A handout with an illustration of the concept plan for the park was distributed and discussed with meeting participants. Traffic circulation and parking issues were major concerns. A site inventory of the trail corridor between the park and 56th Street was presented along with optional trail alignments. Trail safety and right-of-way concerns were the priority concerns relative to the trail. Following the presentations, meeting participants ranked park and trail improvement projects in priority order.

Meeting #3 August 31, 2000

Final recommendations for Northwestway Park were presented at the last public meeting. The consultant team shared the results of a user survey and offered a recap of the masterplan process and attributes. The final recommendations for facility layouts and the preferred trail alignment were presented. The proposed budget for each project and projected year of implementation was presented in an action plan format. Following an open discussion the meeting concluded and the public input process was completed.

The Survey

Additional public outreach was undertaken in the form of a mail survey. The survey was designed to solicit input on recreation supply, demand and significant issues associated with Northwestway Park (copy of survey included in the appendix). The two page mail survey was sent out along with a notice about the third public meeting in an effort to collect the needed information and boost attendance at the final public meeting. A total of 500 surveys were mailed and sent home with local school children as a “take home” announcement.

A total of 59 responses were received (see Appendix for detailed survey analysis). Survey results showed that improvements to playground facilities, restrooms, the trail system rated highest with respondents. Other high priority improvements included the development of a family activity center, creation of interpretive trails and facilities, and traffic safety improvements especially as related to the perimeter road, Moller Road. Consistent themes of safety, natural open space, and provision of more family facilities (including restroom upgrades) were also echoed in respondents answers to open ended questions on the survey. Both the themes and priority preferences identified via the survey are reflected in the recommendations included in the final action plan.



Park Classification

Northwestway Park is one of 19 community parks in Marion County. A community park, is larger and serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. Community parks focus on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community in addition to preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Northwestway Park provides for group activities and offers recreation opportunities not feasible, or perhaps desirable, at the neighborhood park level. Community Parks are typically developed for both active and passive recreation. A park may be classified as a community park based on the amenities and programs offered. As well as a minimum size of 25 to 100 acres, Northwestway Park qualifies both on facilities and size.

Community parks serve two or more neighborhoods. Although the park's service area should be 0.5 to 3.0 miles in radius, the quality of the natural resource base plays a significant role in site selection. The park should be serviced by major streets and be easily accessible through interconnecting trails. The location of a community park is also dependent upon its proximity to other open space and recreation areas. The level of leisure services provided by others and the types of amenities is always a consideration in deciding when and where to construct a community park.

Natural features are significant characteristics of community parks. These parks are usually established on sites that contain unique landscapes and / or provide recreation opportunities not available elsewhere. Accessibility, location and proximity to other parks are also key concerns in selecting the final site for a community park.

Whenever possible these parks are located adjacent to other open space areas and greenways. Lakes, ponds, and rivers are often found in or near a community park. However within these parks any development adjacent to a riparian zone or floodplain must be carefully evaluated. Community park facilities for active recreation should only be developed on areas of the park that are above the 100-year flood elevation. Linking parks, open spaces and water features diversifies recreation opportunities and enhances park users' perception of the local environment.

Community parks like Northwestway Park provides opportunities for active and passive recreation. Active recreation facilities are designed for informal, unstructured use. Based on user demands, active recreation can also be programmed or reserved in order to assure the highest level of use and reduce user group conflict. Use of community parks however, is not intended to be extensively programmed for league play or exclusive tournament use.

Recreation facilities available at community parks includes large play structures, creative play attractions, game courts, ball fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, horseshoe areas, ice skating areas, swimming pools and the Eagle Creek beach, and other specialty facilities. Opportunities for passive recreation are provided by internal trails, connections with other trail systems, picnic and sitting areas, open space and unique landscape features, natural habitats, and display gardens. Cultural activities like concerts in the park are often offered at community park facilities. Parking lighting, restrooms and other standard support facilities are also provided.



Recommendations

The Master Plan concept for Northwestway Park was prepared based on information collected at several public meetings, input from Indy Parks & Recreation staff, a recreation program developed at a public meeting, and general recreation planning guidelines. The rationale for each of the concept plan elements is listed below.

1

Vehicular Circulation and Parking

Need: The need for additional parking during peak use periods may increase. The current circulation pattern is somewhat limited with parking lots clustered at the center of the site.

Recommendation: Adding additional parking near the public soccer field will improve access to these areas. Circulation through the site will be enhanced by creating a second entrance to the park from Moller Road that connects with the 62nd Street entrance. The existing service drive off Moller Road would be eliminated.

2

Community Center Options

Need: A community center at the park offering indoor programs at Northwestway has been indicated as a future need.

Recommendation: There are two options shown for this future development. The first option, (2), requires an expansion of the existing pool center to accommodate the new community center. A second option, (2a), is to locate the community center near existing parking at the southeast edge of the current soccer fields.

3

Soccer Fields

Need: Indy Parks & Recreation requested the park be programmed to accommodate soccer in the future.

Recommendation: Six soccer fields (195' x 330') oriented north south are shown on the concept. The fields are close to parking, restrooms and concessions. One public field will remain available at the site.

4

Family Activities

Need: A family activity area has been included in the park concept.

Recommendation: This area would include courts for Bocci, Croquet, Horseshoes, Checkers, Shuffleboard and Badminton.

5

Trail System

Need: The existing trail system will be expanded and integrated with the connectivity link between the park and 56th Street.

Recommendation: Trail modifications in the park include rerouting the trail around the parcel owned by the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, expanding the trail through the wooded area of the site, adding links and connecting with a potential trail along Hollingsworth Road. This will increase trail length and connect the park with the 56th Street connector and surrounding residential areas. Trail mile markers will be installed to assist park users while exercising.



Interpretive Trails and Facilities

Need: Only a portion of the existing trail system can be used for natural interpretation. The trail leads through a prairie, follows the woods along Little Eagle Creek and runs near a seasonal wetland offering opportunities for natural area interpretation.

Recommendation: Adding a new trail loop through the woods will expand the interpretive capacity of the system with woodland habitat exploration. A self-guiding nature trail could be developed along these portions of the trail. The viewing platform is located at a high point with easy access to parking. The platform could also be constructed to double as a picnic shelter and as a starting point for hikes, interpretive talks and other interpretive programs.

6

Playground

Need: There is a need for more diverse playground equipment to serve a larger age group.

Recommendation: The playground is centrally located and should be expanded.

7

Basketball Courts

Need: The existing basketball court receives heavy use and use is projected to increase.

Recommendation: The most logical place to add additional basketball courts is near the existing court. One additional court is shown however space is available to accommodate two new courts. All new courts should be designed as round courts to match existing configuration.

8

Picnic Areas

Need: There is no service vehicular access to the concession building and picnic shelters. Picnic shelters are very popular and there is a need for additional shelters.

Recommendation: The existing picnic area is located near the restrooms on a small hill. A new drive will provide service to the concession building and a drop-off for groups using the picnic shelter. Additional picnic shelters are shown near the family activity area and at the viewing platform.

9

Disc Golf

Need: The local disc golf association needs a site where they can develop a course suitable for competition.

Recommendation: The proposed disc golf course is 18 holes following the alignment shown. The conceptual layout was provided by the Disc Golf Association.

10

Future Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Need: Identification of areas suitable for future facility expansion is needed.

Recommendation: A general location for expansion of recreation facilities has been located near the playground.

11



12

Restrooms and Concessions

Need: Restrooms need to be upgraded to meet Indy Parks & Recreation standards for public restrooms and additional access to restrooms and concession area is desired.

Recommendation: This concept retains the existing restroom with room for expansion. Restrooms should also be available at the community center and in conjunction with all food concessions. Concession buildings are shown near the park playground, at the little league fields, and at the aquatic center.

13

Screening and Buffering

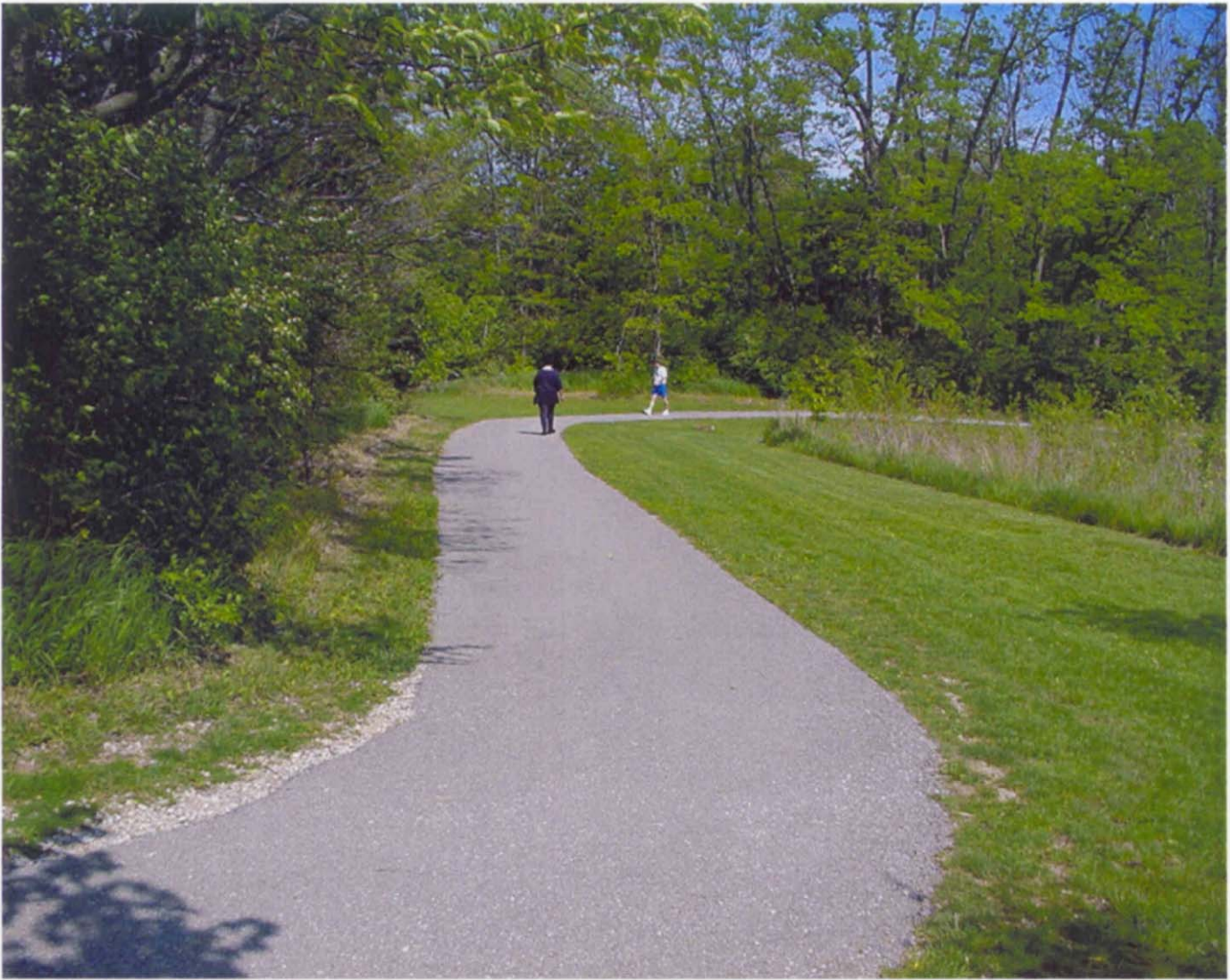
Need: Existing buffers and vegetative screens need to be enhanced to maintain the park character and user experience.

Recommendation: Enhancing the park landscape will improve the visual of the park entrance and the overall aesthetic quality of the park. Vegetative buffers can be used to help identify use zones and reduce conflicts between active and passive recreation areas with the park while screening traffic noise from adjacent streets.



Action Plan

The final step in the planning process was the development of an implementation schedule and projected budget for the recommended improvements. A ten year timeline was used to develop the action plan for Northwestway Park. The action plan lists the priority projects identified by the public in a realistic sequence based on projected park improvement funding levels. The action plan can be used as a tool by the park's board and concerned citizens to track the progress of Indy Parks & Recreation in implementing the planned improvements. It also provides a guide for park planners when they prepare their annual capital improvement budget requests and/or solicit grant funds to support improvements to Northwestway Park.



Implementation Schedule

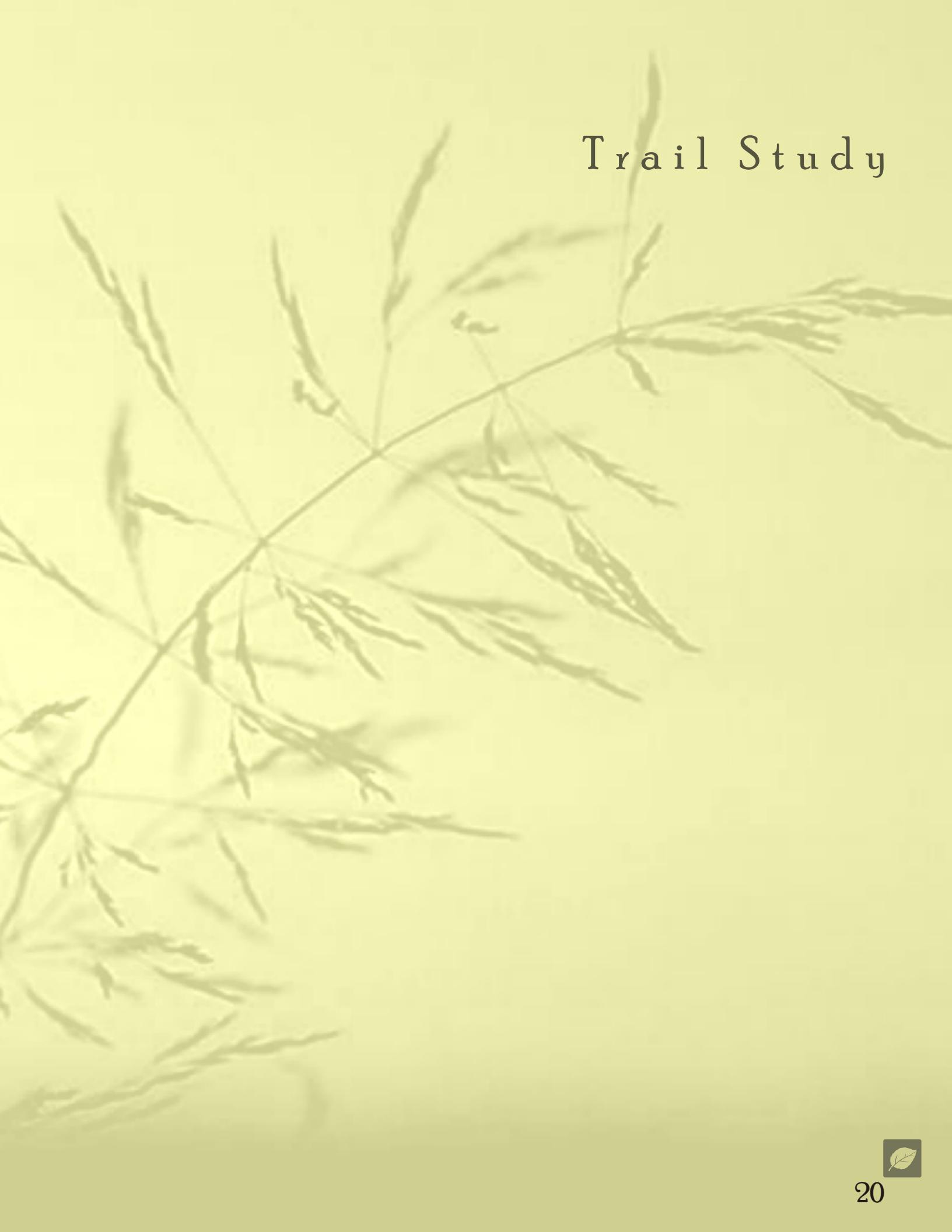
	Action	Cost	Year of Implementation		
1	Expanded Playground	\$80,000	1st - 3rd		
2	Family Activity Centers	\$15,000	1st - 3rd		
3	Additional Picnic Areas	\$19,500	1st - 3rd		
4	Disc Golf	\$25,000	1st - 3rd		
5	56th Street Trail Connector	\$507,000		3rd - 5th	
6	Park Trail & Interpretive Facilities	\$51,000		3rd - 5th	
7	New Entrance & Parking Lot	\$82,240		3rd - 5th	
8	Soccer Field Improvements	\$20,000		3rd - 5th	



	Action	Cost	Year of Implementation		
9	Screening & Buffering	\$ 1 0 4 , 0 0 0		3 r d - 5 t h	
10	Future Recreation	T B D		3 r d - 5 t h	
11	Basketball Courts	\$20,000			5 t h - 1 0 t h
12	Community Center	\$ 2 , 0 0 0 , 0 0 0			5 t h - 1 0 t h
13	Perimeter Road Improvements <i>(added by citizens as a concern)</i>	T B D	To be addressed		by DPW



Trail Study





Trail Study Summary

One of the driving forces behind the study was the need for greater connectivity throughout Pike Township as identified in the Pike Connectivity Plan completed by Indy Parks & Recreation in 1999. The trail study completed as part of the master plan process included two goals. One goal was to develop a connection between the park and 56th Street. A second goal was to improve and expand the existing trail system within the park.

The study began with a thorough inventory of the existing conditions in and around the park. Potential points of connection and corridors suitable for trail development were identified. Trail access, safety, natural resource conservation and aesthetics were major considerations.

Indy Parks & Recreation and the public identified several key improvements that needed to be made to the existing park trail system. A connection to the Eagle Creek Little League baseball fields at the southeast corner of the park was needed, additional access points for area residents were desired, realignment of the trail around a privately owned parcel was required, expanded trail length and trail mile markers were desired, and improved safety at all street crossings was necessary. Keeping these needs in mind, the consulting team identified options for improving the trail system within the park. The final plan for the trail within the park was developed based on input received at public meetings and reviews by Indy Parks & Recreation staff.

The trail connection between Northwestway Park and 56th Street required the planning team to evaluate street crossings, impacts to private properties, and look at the opportunities for developing a trail in drainage and utility easements. The emphasis of this trail was on function providing safe, direct access to the park was the objective. Trail planners hiked between the park and 56th Street to identify corridors suitable for trail development. Potential routes were mapped and presented to the public for input. The final trail alignment was developed to take advantage of existing utility easements and provide the safest points of crossing and connection on both 59th Street and at 56th Street.

Plans showing the proposed trail routes were developed to complete the trail study. The plans clearly show the alignment preferred by the public for the trail system within the park and the 56th Street connector.

Trail parallels the outfield fence along the existing woodland. Additional landscaping in this area would help buffer the trail from the sports complex.



Trail parallels Hollingsworth Road east of the sports complex ball fields. The existing berm and treeline define the trail alignment the trail corridor. Additional plantings would complete the recommended screening between the trail and the road.



Trail connects to the sports complex ball fields at this point.



Proposed bridge site showing typical character of trail along the creek.



Prairie as seen from trail. The trail would curve east around the wetland in the foreground of the photograph, connecting to the existing walking path at the midpoint of the southern loop.



The trail connecting Northwestway Park to 56th Street will begin at the park entrance and follow the existing trail to the southern part of the site. A new trail will be constructed beginning at the approximate midpoint of the southern park loop. [The new trail will traverse an existing wetland area fording Little Eagle Creek on a newly constructed pedestrian bridge.] The trail will follow the east bank of the creek to a new pedestrian crossing at the southeast corner of the existing vehicular bridge on 59th Street. After crossing 59th Street the trail will follow the existing drainage easement adjacent to Little Eagle Creek. The trail will continue south on this alignment through the Woods of Eagle Creek apartment complex, passing between the creek and a small pond. The trail will maintain an alignment adjacent to the creek continuing south through an existing utility easement to a point of intersection with 56th Street.



56TH STREET TRAIL CONNECTOR

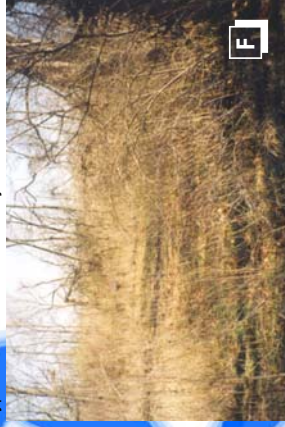
Trail follows 59th Street in front of the sports complex.



Recommended bridge site for trail. A boardwalk / bridge system would be constructed to raise the trail above spring flood levels.



Typical character of trail area just north of 59th Street.



View west from the 59th St. crossing point.



Little Eagle Creek west of sports complex, below trail. Erosion in this area is advancing rapidly. This is the most critical safety issue on the trail.



Existing bridge over Little Eagle Creek at the entrance to the apartment complex on Winterberry Drive. The bridge frequently floods, and the recommended trail alignment should avoid this low crossing.



Trail route adjacent to pond in utility corridor. The pond provides a natural buffer between the trail and the neighboring subdivision.



Utility corridor crossing 56th Street. The Little Eagle Creek Trail will connect with the 56th Street Trail near this point.



The area between 56th Street and The Woods apartment complex. This area contains a significant amount of debris and will require clean-up prior to any trail construction.



Trail route passes between the tennis courts and Little Eagle Creek at The Woods apartment complex.



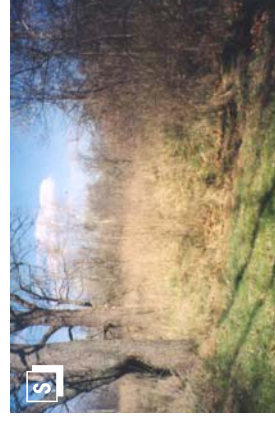
Typical utility corridor between 59th Street and Winterberry Drive. Here the trail would use an existing utility easement, that is level and free of large trees.



Drainage easement linking utility corridor with neighboring subdivision. This easement could be used to provide a neighborhood link to the trail.

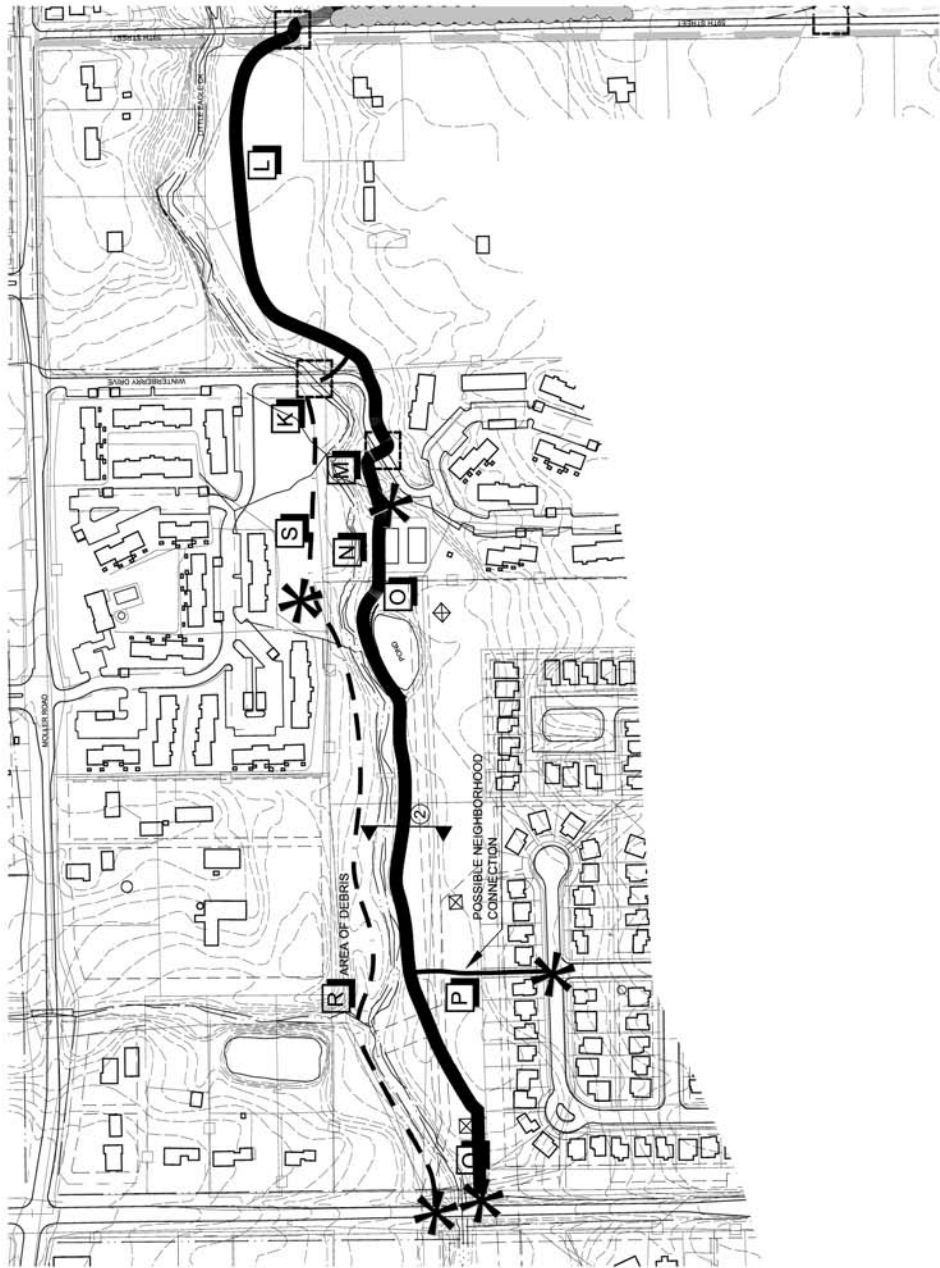


The Woods apartment complex. The pleasant natural corridor is level and free of barriers to trail construction, but is frequently inundated during high water.

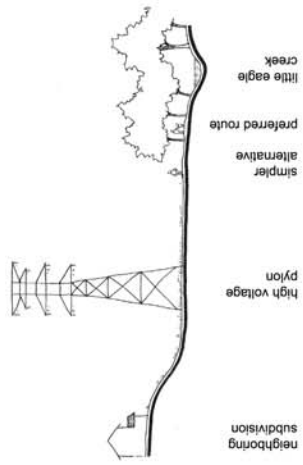


Recommended Winterberry Drive crossing point.





- Legend**
- Guardrail
 - Vegetation Buffer
 - High Voltage Pylon
 - Connection
 - 56th Street Connector - Route 1
 - 56th Street Connector Route 2
 - Sports Complex - Route A
 - Sports Complex - Route B
 - Boardwalk/bridge
 - Photo key



1 Section at Power Lines

Preferred Route - uses existing wooded riparian zone to screen trail from neighboring subdivision. Wooded trail route also screens high voltage pylons from trail users.

Simpler Alternative - minimizes clearing required for trail.



Northwestway Park Little Eagle Creek Trail Indianapolis, Indiana

route concepts

1 of 2

Figure #4

March, 2000

Revisions

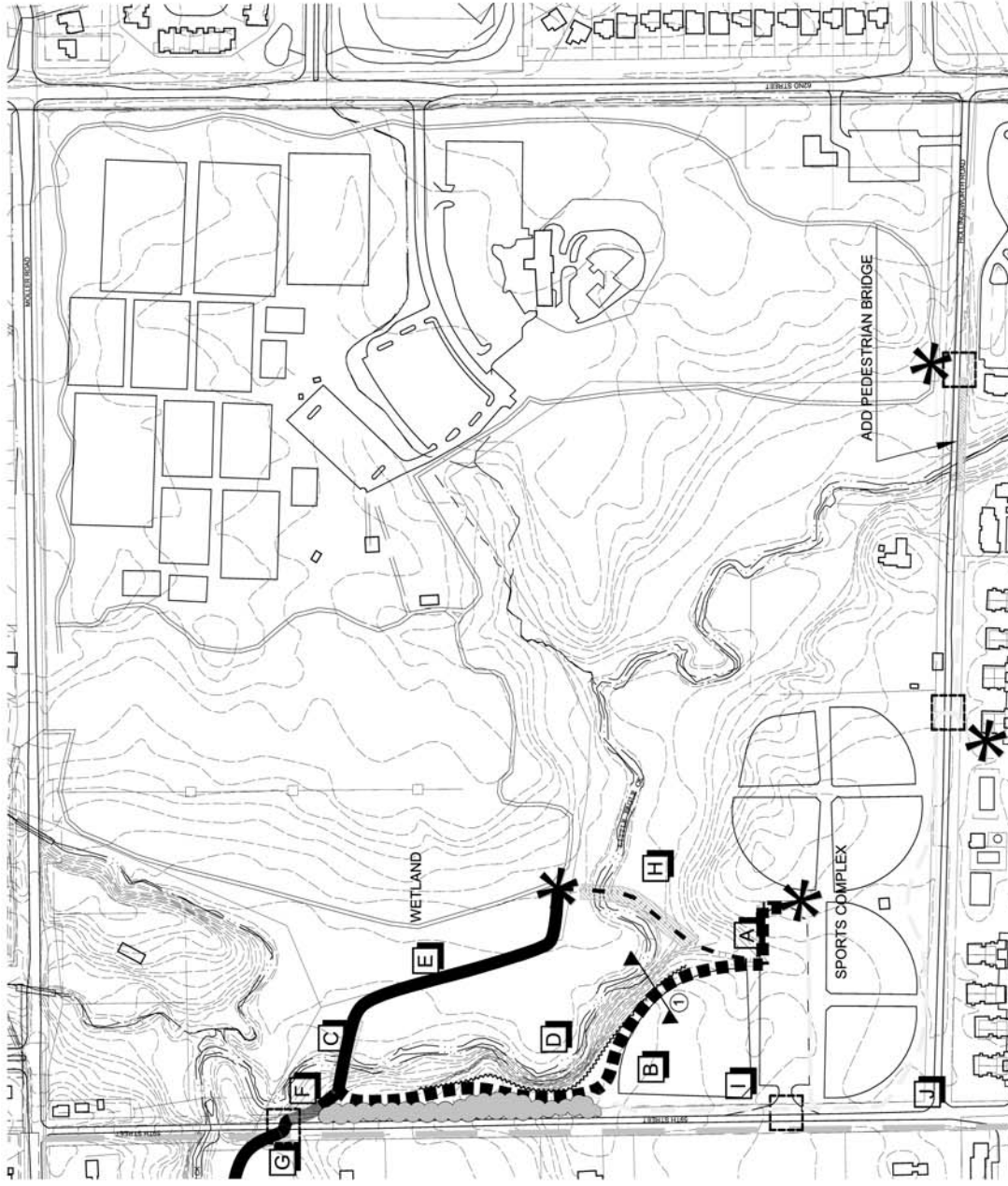
Drawn By: BS



Claire Bennett Associates

Landscape Architects

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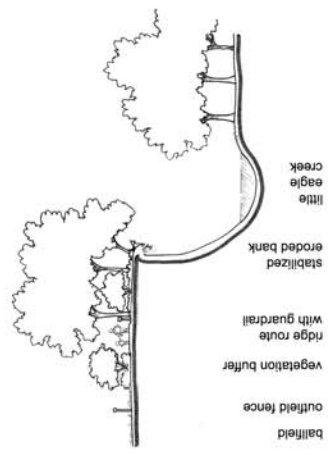


Legend

- Guardrail
- Vegetation Buffer
- High Voltage Pylon
- Connection
- 56th Street Connector - Route 1
- 56th Street Connector Route 2
- Sports Complex - Route A
- Sports Complex - Route B
- Boardwalk/bridge
- Photo key



Photo key



1 Section at Ridge Route

After bank is stabilized, trail will be located a safe distance from top of bank. A guardrail is recommended for additional safety. Understory plantings could be added to the existing woodland to provide improved screening between the trail and the nearby outfield.



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Northwestway Park Little Eagle Creek Trail Indianapolis, Indiana

March, 2000

route concepts

2 of 2

Figure #5 26



Key:

Revised Trail Location

— 100 —

Former Trail Location

Note:

The trail layout shown on this plan was modified by Indy Parks on August 28, 2001. The layout shown was not presented at the public meetings.



A p p e n d i x



NORTHWESTWAY MASTERPLAN UPDATE MINUTES: Public Meeting #1

April 6, 2000
7:00 PM Pike Township Offices

Team introductions were conducted, followed by an overview of the planning process of this two-phased project; a trail project and site master plan update.

Meeting #1-Park Master Plan Update

The proposed trail project including current inventory and potential trail pathways and node locations to be located along the described trails was presented. Comments that meeting attendees had in response to the trail project were:

- Locating a trail along Hollingsworth Dr. would be desirable
- Locating a proposed trail segment connecting Northwestway Park through the vegetated area designed to align with a crossing at 56th Street would be desirable.
- Attendees were in favor of the trail design, trail nodes, and in particular the plan to provide a community-wide trail system, connecting the Pike Township community within itself and to the surrounding Indianapolis Community.
- There are safety concerns regarding the distance trails will be kept away from power lines.

Meeting #1-Park Master Plan Update

Ms. Kroh then introduced Mr. Tom Higgins and Ms. Kelly Brownell, of Gove Associates Inc., to discuss the Northwestway Park Site Master Plan update portion of the project. Mr. Higgins asked the attendees to describe and discuss three issues in detail: 1) Positive Park attributes, 2) Issues to be improved upon, and 3) Proposed new projects. Mr. Higgins then instructed each person to vote for his or her top priority project by placing a colored sticker on that proposed new project. The findings and comments were listed by Ms. Brownell on a large display board, and are summarized below:

Positive Attributes	User's Dislikes about the Park	Ranked Proposed New Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Trails <input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Areas <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Center <input type="checkbox"/> Existence of Restroom Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Parking (except during soccer season)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Trail Connectivity between Park and Area Neighborhoods <input type="checkbox"/> Excess parking along Moller Rd. <input type="checkbox"/> Poorly lit trails <input type="checkbox"/> Out-dated playground equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball deficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Overflowing trash containers and littering <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of shelters and shade <input type="checkbox"/> Trail markings needed <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of benches <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Service Entrance Safety	1. Trail Connectivity 2. Expand hours of restroom access 3. Acquire additional park land Update playground equipment 4. Provide a Multi-use Facility Building to include Senior Activities.

In addition a brief presentation of the Indy Parks approved inclusion of a Disc Golf course, sited for completion in 2000, to be located along the periphery of the park, was presented by a citizen member, to the attendees. The Disc Golf project received favorable attendee support.

Meeting Closing Comments

Mr. Higgins then closed the meeting, thanking everyone for participating.

NORTHWESTWAY MASTERPLAN UPDATE MINUTES:

Public Meeting #2

June 20, 2000

7:00 PM Pike Township Offices

Facilitators:

Gove Associates Team	Park Advisory Committee	Indy Parks Staff
Terry Killen	Jeanette Robertson	Don Colvin
Amadou Guisse'	Ed Sankowski	Michael Krosschell
Joyce Craig	Sally Dillon	Rich Irish
Dawn Kroh, -(CBA)	David Dixon	Tina Jones
Brian Bays - (CBA)		Angie Dye
		Son Cheung

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM by Mr. Michael Krosschell. Mr. Krosschell introduced the Indy Park Staff members and Park Committee members in attendance. Mr. Krosschell explained that approximately 325 notices were sent to the residents surrounding the park, inviting them to attend this public meeting to discuss the trail connection of the park trail to 56th street. He then introduced Mr. Killen of Gove Associates Inc. Mr. Killen introduced the Consultant Team Members, and then reviewed the planning process of this two-phased project; a trail project and site master plan update. He then introduced Team member, Dawn Kroh, of Claire Bennett Associates, to present the Masterplan first, then the Trail portion of the project.

Meeting #2-Park Master Plan Update

Ms. Kroh presented the Preliminary Masterplan Concept by discussing 2 presentation boards, a pictorial inventory of the existing trail site with proposed features enumerated and described on a second board. In addition an 11"x17" handout was given to each participant. Ms. Kroh described a series of proposed trail pathways and potential node locations along the described trails. The site plan showed a potential trail along Hollingsworth Dr. (slated to be closed-off to vehicular traffic in the future). Ms. Kroh invited the meeting attendees to offer their comments, suggestions and preferences pertaining to the proposed trail pathways, their locations and any trail issues. One attendee questioned the effect that the new trails cutting across the vegetated areas would have on the wild animal population, beavers, deer, and mostly, the need for an environmental impact study and geological survey before adopting any plans to expand. Another attendee questioned the effect that the beaver's constant tree chewing and damming would have on the human population. Several attendees commented that there were safety concerns of perimeter roads (namely Moller Road from 56th to 62nd streets) and parking concerns; that people are currently using the perimeter roads to park along, causing traffic problems in the whole area around the park. One attendee suggested that a member of the DCAM/DPW should attend the next public meeting for the departments program for road improvements in this area. Don Colvin responded by explaining that the process is in the conceptual planning stage and that the DCAM/DPW works separately from parks-although informal discussions have been underway concerning the traffic problem, and that Indy Parks & Recreation believes that there is adequate parking noted in the site plan (with the exception of soccer league events which could justify the need for the 100 additional parking spaces proposed in the site plan of the park). Furthermore, participants talked about their frustration with public offices not fulfilling promises made ten, and fifteen years ago.

Meeting #2-Trail Project

Mr. Killen then asked Ms. Kroh to describe the trails in her two other presentation boards. The boards illustrated several alternative locations for the proposed trails, and explained that staking had been laid out along the potential trails with numbered notations and corresponding photographs for each number shown on the boards. The participants were invited to come up to examine the pictures and trail layouts and to discuss their concerns. Safety issues and right-of-way concerns were mentioned. One attendee mentioned the possible technicality of gaining 'rights' to the electrical easement. Another attendee was concerned about his personal privacy and crime vulnerability of his backyard that faces the potential connecting trail location. Several attendees mentioned that the trail would more than likely, as it has in other communities, improve community morale and also improve real estate value of homes and/or businesses located close to the trail.

Meeting #2- Closing Comments

Mr. Killen then instructed each person to rank his or her top priority projects by placing a colored sticker on that proposed new project number. Each participant was given three stickers with which to rank the projects they felt should have priority. The ratings are illustrated on the table on the following sheet as ranked by the attendees.

Proposed New Projects	Ranking of Proposed New Projects
Trail System	6
Perimeter Road Improvements (Added by Citizens as a concern)	6
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	5
Picnic Areas	4
Screening and Buffering	4
Community Center	3
Interpretive Trails and Facilities	3
Restrooms and Concessions	2
Playground	2
Future Outdoor Recreation Facilities	1
Soccer Fields	0
Disc Golf	0
Basketball Courts	0
Family Activities	0

Mr. Killen closed the meeting at 9:10, thanking everyone for participating and encouraging them to tell their neighbors and friends to come to the next meeting, which would be announced through another mailing.

NORTHWESTWAY MASTERPLAN UPDATE MINUTES:

Public Meeting #3

August 31, 2000

7:00 PM Pike Township Offices

Facilitators:

Gove Associates Team	Park Advisory Committee	Indy Parks Staff
Terry Killen	Jeanette Robertson	Don Colvin
Tom Higgins	Ed Sankowski	Michael Krossschell
Dawn Kroh, -(CBA)	Sally Dillon	Rich Irish
Brian Bays - (CBA)	David Dixon	Tina Jones

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Mr. Michael Krossschell. Mr. Krossschell introduced the Indy Park Staff members and Park Committee members in attendance. He then introduced Mr. Killen of Gove Associates Inc. Mr. Killen introduced the Consultant Team Members, and then reviewed the planning process of this two-phased project; a trail project and site master plan update. He then introduced Team member, Dawn Kroh, of Claire Bennett Associates, to present the Masterplan first, then the Trail portion of the project.

Ms. Kroh presented the Masterplan Concept by discussing 2 presentation boards, a pictorial inventory of the existing trail site with proposed features enumerated and described on a second board. All proposed recommendations for the Masterplan were discussed. Ms. Kroh then described the proposed trails that would link Northwestway Park south to 56th street. The boards illustrated several alternative locations for the proposed trails, and explained that staking had been laid out along the potential trails with numbered notations and corresponding photographs for each number shown on the boards.

The meeting was then opened up for general comments and questions from the public. A listing of comments is as follows:

- ☐ Need to upgrade the current restroom facilities.
- ☐ Would like to see Holingsworth Road stay open, replace the bridge, it helps with traffic circulation
- ☐ Looping a road through the park may cause people to cut through the park to avoid the stoplight.
- ☐ Would like to see a Community Center in the park but was not sure it was a top priority.
- ☐ Have a need for additional shelters and the ability to reserve shelters.
- ☐ Trails should be a top priority of this project.
- ☐ Can something be done with the asphalt section on the west side of the park.

Mr. Higgins then closed the meeting at 9:05, thanking everyone for participating.

SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents who ranked these improvements highly (4 out of 5)

55.9% Playground Facilities
52.5% Restrooms/Concessions
50.8% Trail System
44.1% Family Activity Center
44.1% Interpretive Trails & Facilities
42.4% Perimeter Road Safety
39.0% Picnic Areas
35.6% Community Center
28.8% Screening Buffering
25.4% Vehicular Circulation & Parking
25.4% Basketball Courts
22.0% Future Outdoor Recreation
18.6% Soccer Fields
18.6% Disc Golf Course

Specific Improvements Requested

- Block off trail at entrance so walkers/joggers will use path instead of cutting in front of traffic at entrance
- Expand playground areas with more equipment
- Better maintenance in restroom playground area
- Expand basketball area, always crowded, always good atmosphere
- During soccer practice the entire park is overrun. For practice they play everywhere
- We utilize the park daily & appreciate the interest in making it better
- Better pool facility, separate baby/wading pool area (ie. Krannert) and lap pool
- More umbrellas around pool area of water park, or other sources of shade
- More picnic & shelter areas
- I like how the trail creates the impression of not being in the city. Very well laid out & natural
- Bathrooms are too small, water fountains need to be fixed.
- Trail needs to have lights at dusk
- Organized facility for park monitoring
- New access from Moller Road
- Night lights, keep crime away from creek/dense areas
- My husband would love a Disc Golf Course.
- Full size pool next to water park
- When the soccer leagues leave, no more soccer Leagues
- Don't add more parking; it takes away from natural look. Once soccer league leaves there will be enough parking.
- Planning for future use and activities
- Softball Fields
- Safety
- There are more areas undeveloped than developed. Fix up and utilize these areas.
- A safe route across Moller Road to trails from Liberty Creek North
- Trails will be a huge improvement. Well paved (for rollerbladers) and as long as possible

- The proposed trail to 56th Street would be great. Right now, walking my dog along Moller Road is very dangerous.
- Special attention needs to be given to any driveway cuts on Moller Road for safety reasons.
- Need a larger pool - too small for number of users
- No entrance on Moller Road
- More trees planted
- More Picnic Areas, but don't impact the prairie area
- Traffic light at 62nd Street entrance
- More police/sheriff visibility
- Larger swimming pool
- More lighting
- Access to park across Moller Road from Liberty Creek Subdivision
- More Playground Equipment
- More Family Activities
- Sidewalks to park from surrounding neighborhoods
- Have fewer soccer fields when PYS moves out
- Get IPALCO to plant more trees for tomorrow along perimeter walkways.
- Make sure all physical improvements are totally in compliance with ADA standards
- Make sure new proposed driveway is acceptable to impacted neighbors across the street
- Additional night lighting on the trails
- Access from Moller Road
- Larger swimming pool
- More restrooms and upgrade existing ones
- The entrance off Moller Road concerns me. Perhaps if it were gated at night it would ease minds of adjacent homeowners
- Marked access route and walkway to the park
- Notice of upcoming family events and group activities
- Additional Picnic Areas with reservations only (like Sahm Park)
- Someone to staff the park would be nice too

INDY PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

In July, 2000 Indy Parks & Recreation consisted of the following type and number of parks

Quantity	Park Type
6	Regional Parks
19	Community Parks
66	Neighborhood Parks
24	Mini-Parks
6	Greenways
11	Natural Resource Areas
13	Public Golf Courses
7	Monuments & Memorials
6	Sports Complexes
11	Special Use Facilities
2	Right-of-Ways

NORTHWESTWAY PARK FACILITIES INVENTORY



62nd Street Entrance Sign

Park Entrance off of 62nd St.

- ☐ Overgrown Landscaping
- ☐ Park Signage and Retention Wall



62nd Street Entrance Sign Landscaping

- ☐ Overgrown shrubs and plantings
- ☐ Worn turf- lack of sidewalk/ pathway



62nd Street Vehicular Entrance Access Road

- ☐ Trail/ pathway does not extend to the entrance



Path: Northwest of entrance looking east toward entrance access road on the north side of the soccer field area.



Path: Northwest side of the park.... View east along 62nd Street..... continuation of above photograph.



Path: Pedestrian Access to the park at northwest corner of the park at the intersection of 62nd St. and Moller Rd.



**Soccer Fields at Northwest corner of park
along Moller and 62nd Streets**



Soccer Fields



**Path: Looking north adjacent to west side
of soccer fields along Moller Rd.**





Path: View south along Moller Rd., just south of the soccer fields.



View of path connection node to Moller, located across from the prairie area.



The prairie area, view east from path along Moller Rd.



**Path, view looking east from Moller Rd,
most tree line of the park.**



**Prairie Grass Areas along the eastward
south leg of the path**



Close-up of the prairie grasses.



Wetland area , south of the path
adjacent to the tree line park boundary.



Bird house in the wetland area.



Path, as it extends north from the prairie grass and wetland area.



View of sewer easement grass area that has potential for an additional non-paved pathway segment. Located at the first bend of the path adjacent to the creek as you head north from the wetland area.



Continuation of sewer easement.



View of sewer easement that connects to the concession stand/ shelter area.



Path looking east toward the creek/ tree line, adjacent to the prairie area.



Picnic shelter, located on the north side of the prairie area, just east of the playground.



Path leading from the picnic shelter to the parking lot.



Playground adjacent to the soccer fields and picnic shelter



Concession stand and restroom building adjacent to the playground and soccer fields.



Parking lot areas at the north central side of the park.



Basketball hoops on the south side of the Aquatics facility, adjacent to the parking area.



**View looking east from the basketball area
toward Hollingsworth Rd. and Apartments.**



**View of open area looking toward tree line
property boundary next to Hollingsworth.**



Aquatics Center Building



Aquatic Center



Aquatic Center Slides



Aquatic Center wading and lap pool



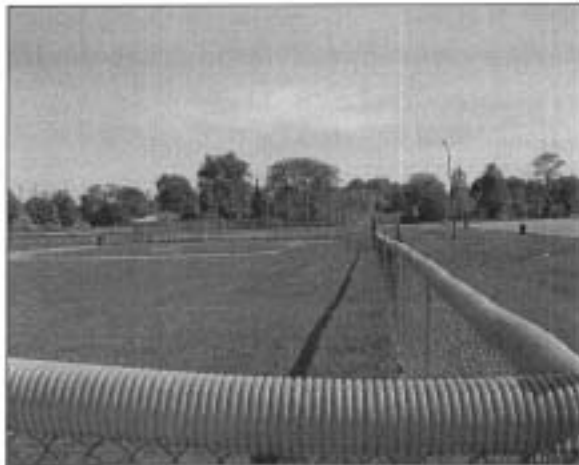
Entrance to Eagle Creek Little League baseball fields off of 59th street and Hollingsworth.



Eagle Creek Little League ball field parking lot, view south toward 59th St.



Eagle Creek Little League ball fields between Hollingsworth and parking area.



Eagle Creek Little League ball fields



In-between the Eagle Creek Little League ball fields



**Utility easement for location of trail segment,
view from the 56th St. Bridge looking north.**